

CHURCH AND STATE NEWSLET

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Reformation Day Speakers Call For Rededication To Freedom

A renewed and vigorous affirmation of American principles of religious liberty in the light of the Protestant Reformation from which they derived was urged upon church members all over the land by prominent speakers during services marking the observance of Reformation Day, October 30th. The significance of the Reformation for all Americans—and particularly for Roman Catholics, who in this country fully enjoy the freedom made possible by the Reformation's liberal heritage—was stressed in several stirring addresses.

At Raleigh, N. C., Dr. Edwin McNeill Poteat, pastor of the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and president of POAU, made an appeal to the conscience of America, declaring: "Freedom is always put in jeopardy by those who will not exercise it and by those who will not allow it. . . Indifference opens more gates to the enemy than tyranny does. It might even be said that tyranny cannot utterly despoil the free spirit so long as the spirit strives for freedom."

"Luther," he pointed out, "was a Roman Catholic as were his students. We must not forget that the Reformation was not instigated by Protestants but by Roman Catholics who had felt the crushing hand of the hierarchy and were determined to escape from it at any cost, even of life or worse, of excommunication—eternal damnation. So priceless to these early men was their spiritual freedom."

It is only as this conflict between authority and freedom is resolved in favor of the latter, Dr. Poteat concluded, that religious liberty in this country will triumph over current threats to its existence. "The New York cardinal," he said, "is not typical of most of those who follow his orders on penalty of denial of the sacraments. . . . (Lay Catholics) are, by the large majority, our American brethren and they share the American dream of freedom, little knowing that it is one of the fruits of the Reformation they have been taught to discredit or despise. At the same time, in a world where human freedom is often treated with indifference both by those who have it and those who would deny it, we cannot rest comfortably by simply singing praises to our father's God, Author of Liberty. He is its Author,

but we are its exemplars, never by accident or good luck, but always by the vigilant, honest, determined pursuit of it in all areas of experience."

Barden Speaks

In Atlanta, Ga., Rep. Graham A. Barden of North Carolina was the guest of the Atlanta Christian Council and the Evangelical Ministers' Association, and spoke to 4,000 persons gathered in the Municipal Auditorium on the controversy over federal aid to education and its bearing on separation of church and state. Referring to Roman Catholic attacks upon himself for sponsoring a bill which did not provide for aid to parochial schools, he said:

"Just as if you had pressed an electric button the name-calling spread through the hierarchy and letters began to pour in, simply because the bill contained this language: 'Amounts paid to any State under this Act shall be expended only for current expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools within such State' and defined 'public elementary and secondary schools' as 'tax-supported grade schools and high schools which are under public supervision and

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Ozarks College Case Awaits Court Decree

Payment of funds under a 1949 law appropriating \$50,000 a year for two years to the School of Pharmacy at the College of the Ozarks, Arkansas, was recently ordered stopped by Pulas County Chancellor Frank Dodge pending court determination of the validity of the grant.

A suit brought by F. B. Garrett, Little Rock tax payer, questions the constitutionality of the law on the ground that the college is a Presbyterian institution not entitled to public support. The School of Pharmacy at Ozarks is the only one in the state. The case is bound for the State Supreme Court.

Navy Planes Aid Rites

A Roman Catholic procession in honor of St. Theresa, held annually in New Columbus, Pa., was recently given a new dash and "style" through the good offices (?) of Navy Secretary Francis P. Matthews. A squadron of Naval Air Reserve planes were sent 100 miles from the Willow Grove Naval Air Station near Philadelphia, to participate in the celebration. It is hard to see how the "mission" had anything to do with the U. S. national defense.

Significance of Garb

"The mere presence of Sisters and Brothers in our hospitals," writes the Jesuit priest, Father J. J. Clifford, "is a striking profession of faith in the truth of the Catholic Church . . . their influence, if not irresistible, is surely a tremendously potent cause of conversions"—J. J. Clifford, S.J., "Medical Ethics in appendix to St. Thomas Aquinas Summa Theologica, New York, Benziger Brothers, Inc., 1947-48, imprimatur of Francis Cardinal Spellman.

In several states of the Union, garbed nuns teach in the public schools. Are they there as public servants, or rather to act as "a tremendously potent cause of conversions"?

MORRISON DECRIES "FALSE TOLERANCE"

A "highly financed interfaith organization into which many Protestant leaders have been drawn" has subjected the Protestant faith to a watering-down process by spreading a false conception of tolerance, Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, a POAU vice-president and former editor of the *Christian Century*, told 3,000 persons at the annual Reformation service of the Council of Churches of Buffalo and Erie.

By paying lip-service to "good will" and "brotherhood," Dr. Morrison charged, this organization has "lulled Protestants to sleep" in the face of grave perils to religious liberty and the separation of church and state.

"For the past thirty years," he said, "the Roman Church has been able to block every attempt to secure from Congress federal aid to education in the poorer states of the Union."

"Hitherto, the hierarchy has worked behind the scenes to secure for parochial schools a share in any appropriation for public education. Now, however, it has come out boldly and by intimidation and threat of political reprisals has actually scared Congress into pigeon-holing an honest bill for public education because the bill makes provision only for public schools."

"The issue is simply whether the Catholic Church which numbers one-sixth of our population shall compel the five-sixths of our population to support its church schools with tax money. If our law makers allow this to be done the principle of separation of church and state will be breached beyond repair."

Dr. Morrison concluded with an appeal to Protestant leaders to drop all "sectarian intransigence" and to unite in a common struggle to preserve American liberties and the "precious heritage" of the Reformation.

Dr. Morrison will be the principal speaker at POAU's Second National Conference on Church and State, to be held Tuesday evening, January 31, at Constitution Hall, Washington.

TEXAS BAPTISTS SHUN PUBLIC AID

Although three Baptist hospitals in Texas have been offered federal aid in various amounts, the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas has asked administrators of its nine schools and five hospitals to decline all proffers of assistance from state or federal authorities.

The executive board also voted to guarantee the Valley Baptist Hospital at Harlingen \$100,000 for the next four years if the hospital raised \$138,000 itself. Dr. J. Howard Williams, executive secretary of the board, disclosed that a tentative agreement between the hospital and the federal government was abandoned when the trustees decided that acceptance of government aid would violate the Baptist position on separation of church and state.

Reformation Day

(Continued from page 1)

control."

"... I have a very strong conscientious conviction that it is wrong to collect taxes and spend money to support any church school regardless of the faith. I am of the honest opinion and I do not think anyone would deny that a parochial school is an adjunct of the Catholic Church—and as such is as much a part of the Church activities as the Sunday sermon."

Warns of "Minor" Breaches

Rep. Barden drew applause when he referred to the estimated number of 256 different religious denominations in America (according to the Library of Congress), and declared: "... only one ... has claimed any right to tax money, and so far as I know the other 255 oppose that one getting tax money."

Turning to the question of so-called "auxiliary aids" for parochial schools, he said that this proposal reminded him of a certain couple, who, before getting married, made an agreement that the husband was to make all major decisions and the wife all minor decisions. They married, and ten years later the husband looked back and realized that there had never been any major decisions. "If we begin to appropriate tax money for all minor expenses and services soon there will be no more major expenses," Rep. Barden said. "They will all be minor."

At the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, G. Bromley Oxnam, Methodist bishop for the New York area and a POAU vice-president, told representatives of 1200 Protestant churches that Protestants all over the world must stand firm in defense of religious liberty against all efforts by totalitarian state or church leaders to destroy it. The Roman Catholic Church, he said, could not be deemed a friend of religious liberty until it enunciated a new doctrine to control its relations with other churches, a doctrine based on the golden rule. Bishop Oxnam proposed that Pope Pius XII "simply declare that in all matters of religious liberty, the Roman Catholic Church will do unto

others as it would be done by and then act upon that declaration."

For the Good of All

In Washington, D. C., the Rev. C. Stanley Lowell, pastor of the Wesley Methodist Church and a member of POAU's National Advisory Council, told his congregation:

"The argument for separation of church and state is not that it is old, or that everybody else does it that way. The argument is that it works. It's been good for the country, and it's been good for the church. The fact is that government and church don't mix. No earthly power can tell a man how to worship God and try to push him in that direction without beginning to undermine what is integral to his character."

In Detroit, more than 5,000 persons of many faiths and creeds jammed the Masonic Temple to hear Dr. E. Stanley Jones, famous missionary and evangelist, deliver a sermon which stressed the open Bible and the "rediscovery of Christ" as the central ideas of the Reformation. Contrasting Latin America and North America, he declared that "it is no chance that only where an evangelical emphasis is laid in a country does true democracy emerge." In Latin America, Dr. Jones observed, the dominant authoritarian system of religion gives rise to "more skepticism and atheism on the part of the intellectuals than in any other part of the world."

A Statement Withdrawn

We have received a letter from H. J. Joy, general counsel for the Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., with respect to a reference in the September issue of the *Church and State Newsletter* concerning the publishing offices of that organization in Chicago. We said:

"An adjoining office has been established, with the following legend on the door: 'Catholic Committee on the Encyclopedia Britannica.' The editors of the Encyclopedia submit their copy to the neighboring office for censorship."

Mr. Joy denies the truth of our statement and asks for its withdrawal. He says:

"At no time has a 'Catholic Committee on the Encyclopedia Britannica' existed. At no time has there been an office adjacent to Britannica offices with such a legend on the door. At no time have the editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica 'submitted' copy for the Encyclopedia to any Catholic committee for censorship."

In view of the above statement by Mr. Joy we withdraw our reference to the Encyclopedia Britannica and regret its publication.—the Editors.

"PRIVATE JUDGMENT" HELD KEY TO LIBERTY

Defense of full religious liberty has become one of the greatest concerns of "all who cherish freedom," Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, general secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, told the Presbyterian Synod of New York at its sixty-seventh annual meeting at Syracuse, N. Y., recently.

There is a world of difference, he said, between the goal of "religious uniformity" sought by the Roman Catholic Church, and the "right of private judgment" concept which is the foundation of Protestantism.

"The Roman Catholic Church believes in religious freedom, but it is freedom with a decided difference," he explained. "The Roman Catholic conception is really limited to freedom as over against the political power; it does not include freedom from ecclesiastical power.

"The Roman Catholic Church can be very insistent on freedom for religion in the Soviet orbit, where the obstacle to freedom is the State, but her reaction is quite otherwise when the issue is freedom—in Spain or Argentina for example—for one group of Christians as over against a dominant ecclesiastical institution.

"If in the United States the practice of the Roman Catholic Church is much better than its theory, that is because it is living in a country which has a different tradition, and in which Roman Catholic strength is not great enough to warrant it in pressing for its own historic pattern." (RNS)

Auxiliary Aids Menace Liberty, Rabbis Say

Government provision of "auxiliary services" to private and parochial schools involves risking "the fundamental American principle of separation of church and state," the executive board of the largest American rabbinical body declared recently in Cincinnati.

Speaking for the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the policy-making board held that assistance in the fields of child health and welfare "must be given through publicly administered agencies," and in no case through the administrations of non-public schools. Health, transportation and text book services were specifically mentioned in the statement. When any concession is made by the government to private schools in these matters, the Rabbis observed, "from that point on it becomes a question of the degree to which the principle (of separation of church and state) is violated."

The board also expressed its dismay at "the failure of our national Congress to enact a law providing much needed federal aid to public education because of a totally irrelevant controversy over federal aid to parochial schools."



UNFAMILIAR CATECHISM

Call for Self-Support

The principle that parochial schools should be supported entirely from "private sources or by the Church" was endorsed by the 56th triennial General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church at its recent San Francisco meeting.

Believing in the principles and policies of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, I hereby enroll (or reaffirm) as a member.

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Street and No. _____

Post Office (City) _____

Zone _____ State _____

I enclose \$ _____ as

- ☐ membership fee
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Make checks or money orders payable to:

POAU, 1835 K Street, N. W.,
Washington 6, D. C.

SECTS SHOULD PAY OWN WAY, SAY DISCIPLES

Enactment of legislation to provide federal assistance to public school education, provided the law was so worded that use of public funds for private, parochial or sectarian schools would be prohibited, was urged by the international convention of the Disciples of Christ at centennial sessions held in Cincinnati recently. The convention also called upon President Truman "to fulfill his oft-repeated promise to withdraw the Honorable Myron Taylor as his personal representative to the Vatican."

The resolution on aid to education declared that all American children are entitled to public education, and that parents who prefer some other type of schooling for their children should pay for it themselves. Free bus transportation should be provided by the government only for public school children, the resolution continued, and legislation providing child health and welfare services should be separated from the school question.

Reaffirming their "devotion to the historic American principle of separation of church and state," the Disciples interpreted the principle to mean that "the Church should be free to carry on its work and proclaim its apostolic message without interference by the State," and also "that the State should be free from interference by the Church in its administration of government and from all efforts of the Church to secure special privileges from government." (RNS).

Wants to Eat Cake, Have It, Too

A statement by Archbishop Joseph Beran to the Roman Catholic priests of Czechoslovakia has acknowledged that the church-subsidization features of the government's new church law are "well enough," but insists that the "shackling" provisions of the law are objectionable. In other words, the Roman Catholic Church is perfectly willing to accept support from the Communist government, so long as the Communist government does not ask what is being done with the money.

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1835 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

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Decide Cases According To Church Dogma, Pope Tells Catholic Judges

Catholic judges throughout the world were advised by Pope Pius XII recently that they should keep Catholic dogma constantly in mind as they draw up decisions in civil and criminal cases involving citizens of all faiths, and that, where the nation's law conflicts with Catholic "law," they should strive insofar as possible to favor the latter.

The Pope's remarks were made to a group of Italian Catholic jurists, and laid particular stress upon divorce cases, but he clearly indicated that his statements were intended to define "fundamental norms" for the guidance of Catholic judges in all countries.

When the interview was released in this country, however, District Judge Luis Armijo of Las Vegas, New Mexico, promptly made it known in a public statement that he would refuse to be bound by the Pope's exhortation. "I may be a Catholic," he said, "but I'm a citizen of the United States first." He explained that in any matter of jurisprudence he considered that his oath of office must come before any supposed obligation to obey the behests of church leaders.

In order to "illuminate the conscience of Catholic jurists," the Pope laid down four rules placing emphasis upon the idea that Catholic judges must always put "God's law" above the written law of any country. By "God's law," of course, he meant Roman Catholic dogma, which differs in many fundamental respects not only from the civil law in America and many other countries, but also from the central concepts of other religions. Thus, Catholic judges are asked by the Pope to study means by which they may violate their oaths of office without being caught at it and thrown off the bench. Unless all American judges of Catholic persuasion follow Judge Armijo's example and reject the Pope's instructions, Protestants, Jews and all non-Catholics can expect to have their rights violated whenever they appear in court before Catholic judges who are willing to prostitute their offices upon directions from Rome.

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Until two years ago, the Christian Democrats, Italy's Catholic party, shared power with the Communist Party.

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The Catholic Women's League of Canada has demanded the appointment of a Canadian ambassador to the Vatican, in a resolution adopted at their recent convention in Windsor, Ont.

In Montreal, the League of Decency, another Catholic organization, is campaigning for the establishment of a provincial bureau to censor all publications, and reports that it is making much "progress."

CHURCH CENSOR FATHER DUNNE

The America Press recently republished in booklet form, under the imprint of Francis Cardinal Spellman, a series of articles by Father George Dunne which were originally published in *America* by way of reply to Paul Blanshard's articles on Catholicism in the *Nation*. The booklet, however, contains certain significant omissions. Among the paragraphs deleted by Archbishop Spellman were the following:

"When Charlemagne, upon the theory that error has no rights against truth, invoked penal laws and the secular power of the state to suppress the erroneous beliefs of the Saxons and impose upon them Christian truths, he was rebuked by Pope Adrian and by the famous monk Alcuin. Alcuin's words are worth recalling: 'Men can be attracted, but not forced, to the faith. You may drive people to baptism, but won't move them one step closer to religion. . . . If the sweet yoke of the burden of Christ had been announced to these inflexible Saxons with as much perseverance as has been brought to the collection of imposts and the rigorous execution of laws punishing the law faults, perhaps they would not have known the horror of baptism.'

"When criticism is stifled, there is cause for alarm. Silence is a sign of smug complacency has entrenched itself and complacency is the prelude to decay and death, whether in literature or life, in society or the state, in politics or economics, in the school or the church."

The title of the emasculated booklet by Father Dunne is "Religion and Democracy."

Bus Rule in South Dakota

The state of South Dakota cannot constitutionally furnish free bus transportation for parochial school pupils, Attorney General Sigurd Anderson ruled recently. He said that the service would impose additional tax burdens on residents when public schools are available, in violation of a constitutional provision.

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Prague officiated at the ceremonies installing Klement Gottwald as chief executive of the Communist Czechoslovakian government.

Blanshard Extends Tour

Many of the groups interested in arranging speaking engagements for Paul Blanshard, author of *American Freedom and Catholic Power*, have advised POAU headquarters that the October 14-November 15 period would conflict with events previously planned by the groups. For this reason, Mr. Blanshard has indicated a willingness to fill engagements arranged for this spring. Interested persons should communicate with POAU.

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